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(54) Suitcase or bag wearable as a vest

(57) A suitcase 1, Fig. 2 can be worn as a vest, Fig. 4 and comprises a first plate member 10, a second plate member 20 and an elongate sheet member (30) joining the plate members 10, 20. Plate member 10 has straps (41) and buckles 42 on its opposed edges (12, 14) engageable with adjustable straps 43 on opposed edges (22, 24) of plate member 20. All of the straps and buckles are done up to form a case, whilst those on one set of edges are left undone to form a vest. Preferably the members 10, 20 (and 30) are of flexible bullet-proof material. The invention may be applied to a bag.

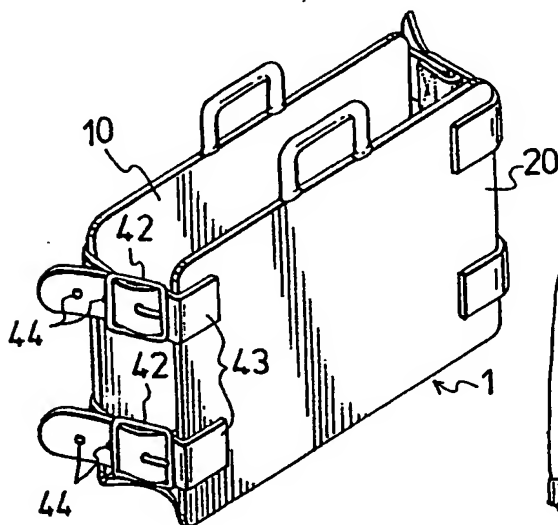


FIG. 2

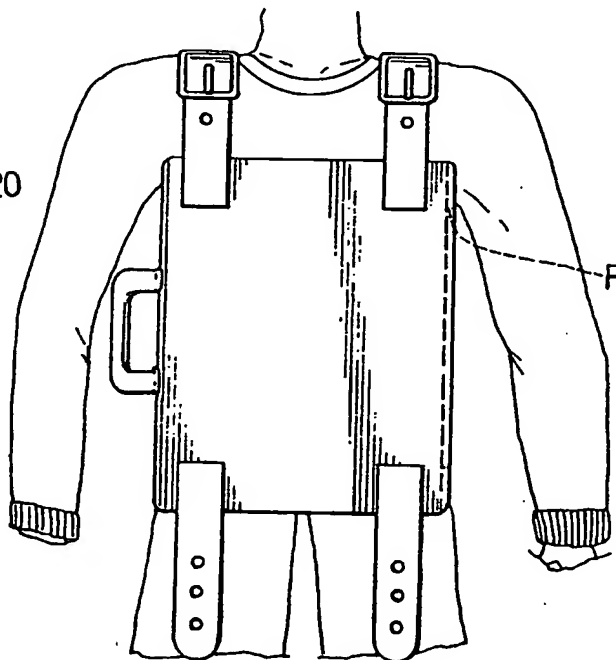


FIG. 4

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FIG. 2

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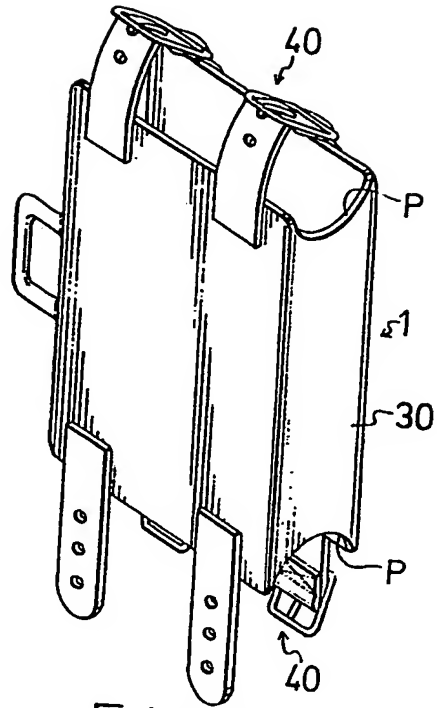


FIG. 3

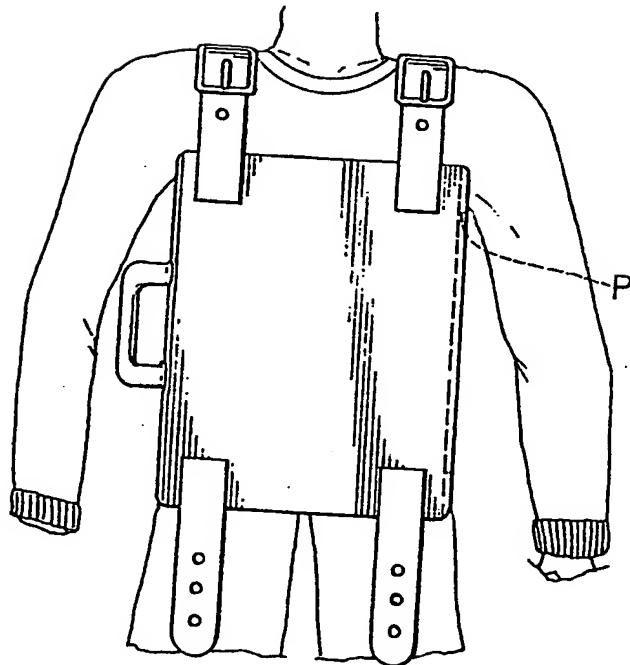


FIG. 4

A SUITCASE

The invention relates to a suitcase or other carrying bag, more particularly to a suitcase which can be adapted to be worn as a vest.

A suitcase is generally used to carry things from one place to another or for storing things.

A first aspect of the present invention provides a suitcase comprising a pair of plate members and means connecting together the plate members to define a volume for carrying an item or items, wherein the connecting means can be arranged to connect the plate members together for wearing on the body as a vest.

More particularly, the suitcase has multiple hinged corners that allow it to unfold into a single plane and be adapted to be worn as vest, that vest preferably being made of bullet-proof material and including a first plate member, a second plate member and an elongated sheet member connecting the first and second plate members.

The first plate member has two opposed edges having two straps, each of the straps having a buckle with a pin pivotally attached thereto, and another edge having a handle.

The second plate member is similar or identical to the first plate member. It has two opposed edges having two straps, each of the straps having a plurality of holes therein, the straps of the first two opposed edges being adapted to engage and be secured by the pins of the buckles of the first two opposed edges of the first plate member. Another edge of the second plate member has a handle aligned with the handle of the first plate member.

The elongated sheet member has two long opposed edges and two short opposed edges, the two long opposed edges respectively connect fourth edges of the first and second plate members.

Other preferred features and advantages of the invention will become apparent from the following detailed description and the accompanying claims.

The invention will be further described by way of example with reference to the accompanying drawings, in which:

Fig. 1 depicts a suitcase forming an embodiment of the present invention, in an opened out configuration;

Fig. 2 shows a schematic view of the suitcase of Fig. 1, when folded up;

Fig. 3 shows the suitcase of the Fig. 1, arranged to be worn as a vest; and

Fig. 4 shows the suitcase of the Fig. 1 being worn as a bullet-proof vest.

Fig. 2 shows a suitcase forming an embodiment of the present invention. The suitcase 1 has multiple hinged straps that allow it to be unfolded into a single plane as shown in Fig. 1. The suitcase 1 has a first plate member 10, a second plate member 20 and an elongated sheet member 30 joining the plate members 10, 20. The first plate member 10 has a first pair of opposed edges 12 and 14 and a second pair of opposed edges 11 and 13. Each of the first pair of opposed edges has two straps 41, each strap having a buckle 42 with a pin 45 pivotally attached thereto. One edge 11 of the second pair of opposed edges 11, 13 has a handle 15.

The second plate member 20 is the same shape as the first plate member 10 and has a first pair of opposed edges 22, 24 and a second pair of opposed edges 21, 23. Each of the first pair of opposed edges 22, 24 has two straps 43, each strap having a plurality of holes 44

thereon. The straps 43 of the first two opposed edges 22 and 24 are positioned and adapted to engage and be secured by the pins 45 of the buckles 42 of the first two opposed edges of the first plate member 10. One edge 21 of the second pair of opposed edges has a handle 16. The handle 16 of the second plate member 20 is aligned with the handle 15 of the first plate member 10.

The elongated sheet member 30 has a two long opposed edges 13, 23 and two short opposed edges, said two short edges have shallow cutouts P in the middle so that human airpits can fit snugly into it when the suitcase 1 is worn as a vest, as best shown in Figs. 3 and 4. The plate members 10 and 20 of the suitcases of the present invention are made of flexible bullet-proof material so that the vest can also serve as bullet-proof vest. the elongated sheet member 30 can also be made of bullet-proof material.

To use a a suitcase, the straps 43, 41 are done up, as seen in Fig. 2. To use as a vest, the suitcase is opened out (Fig. 1) and then positioned around the body (Fig. 4), the straps 41, 43 on one set of edges, say 12, 22, being done up to form shoulder straps for the vest.

With the invention as above explained, it is obvious to those skilled in the art that modifications and

variations can be made to the described embodiment without departing from the scope and spirit of the present invention.

CLAIMS:

1. A suitcase comprising a pair of plate members and means connecting together the plate members to define a volume for carrying an item or items, wherein the connecting means can be arranged to connect the plate members together for wearing on the body as a vest.
2. A suitcase as claimed in claim 1, wherein the plate members are connected together at a first edge and each have a carrying handle at a second edge opposite said first edge.
3. A suitcase as claimed in claim 2, wherein the first edges are connected together by an elongate member.
4. A suitcase as claimed in claim 1, 2 or 3, wherein the plate members are connected together at at least one pair of respective third or fourth edges by straps which can fit on the shoulders of a wearer.
5. A suitcase as claimed in any one of claims 1 to 4, wherein each plate has third and fourth edges, the third edges being releasably connected together.
6. A suitcase as claimed in claim 5, wherein the fourth

edges are releasably connected together.

7. A suitcase as claimed in claim 4, 5 or 6, wherein a strap has a buckle connection.

8. A suitcase as claimed in claim 1, wherein the said plate members are made of flexible bullet-proof material.

9. A suitcase as claimed in claim 7, wherein said bullet-proof material is kevlar.

10. A suitcase as claimed in claim 8 or 9, wherein the suitcase serves as a bullet-proof vest when third edges of the plate members are connected together.

11. A suitcase substantially as hereinbefore described with reference Fig. 1 to 4 of the accompanying drawings.

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS HAVE BEEN FILED AS FOLLOWS.

1. A suitcase comprising a pair of plate members and means connecting together the plate members to define a volume for carrying an item or items, wherein the connecting means can be arranged to connect the plate members together for wearing on the body as a vest.
2. A suitcase as claimed in claim 1, wherein the plate members are connected together at a first edge and each have a carrying handle at a second edge opposite said first edge.
3. A suitcase as claimed in claim 2, wherein the first edges are connected together by an elongate member.
4. A suitcase as claimed in claim 1, 2 or 3, wherein the plate members are connected together at at least one pair of respective third or fourth edges by straps which can fit on the shoulders of a wearer.
5. A suitcase as claimed in any one of claims 1 to 4, wherein each plate has third and fourth edges, the third edges being releasably connected together.
6. A suitcase as claimed in claim 5, wherein the fourth edges are releasably connected together.

7. A suitcase as claimed in claim 4, 5 or 6, wherein a strap has a buckle connection.

8. A suitcase as claimed in claim 1, wherein the said plate members are made of flexible bullet-proof material.

9. A suitcase as claimed in claim 7, wherein said bullet-proof material is kevlar.

10. A suitcase as claimed in claim 8 or 9, wherein the suitcase serves as a bullet-proof vest when third edges of the plate members are connected together.

11. A suitcase substantially as hereinbefore described with reference to Figures 1 to 4 of the accompanying drawings.

12. A suitcase having multiple hinged joints for unfolding the suitcase into a single plane and for converting the suitcase to a vest, comprising:
a first plate member having a first pair of opposed edges and a second pair of opposed edges, each edge of said first pair having two straps, and one edge of said second pair having a handle;
a second plate member identical to said first plate member, having a first pair of opposed edges and a second pair of opposed edges, each edge of the first pair having two straps, including means for engaging

with said straps of said first pair of edges of said first plate member, and one edge of said second pair of edges having a handle, said handle being aligned with said handle of second pair of edges of said first plate member; and

an elongated sheet member having two long opposed edges and two short opposed edges, said two long opposed edges respectively being connected to the remaining edges of said second pair of edges of said first plate member and of said second plate member by said hinged joints.

13. A suitcase as claimed in claim 12, wherein each of said straps of said first pair of of opposed edges of said first plate member has a buckle with a pin pivotally attached.

14. A suitcase as claimed in claim 13, wherein said engaging means comprises a plurality of holes.

15. A suitcase as claimed in claim 14, wherein said straps of said first pair of opposed edges of said second plate member engage with said pins of said buckles of said first pair of opposed edges of said first plate member.

16. A suitcase as claimed in claim 12, wherein said first plate member and said second plate member comprise flexible bullet-proof material.

17. A suitcase as claimed in claim 16, wherein said bullet-proof material is kevlar.

18. A suitcase as claimed in claim 17, wherein said suitcase serves as a bullet-proof vest when one edge of said first pair of opposed edges of said first plate member is engaged with the complementary edge of said second pair of opposed edges of said second plate member.